

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Original). An article of furniture which includes:
a base having a front and a rear and a top surface; and
a backrest assembly having a front edge and a rear edge and slideably arranged relative to the base in a plane parallel to the top surface of the base to adjust a depth of the base as measured between the front edge of the backrest assembly and the front of the base.

Claim 2 (Original). An article of furniture as claimed in claim 1 which includes a carrier arrangement interposed between the base and the backrest assembly for facilitating sliding displacement of the backrest assembly relative to the base.

Claim 3 (Original). An article of furniture as claimed in claim 2 in which the carrier arrangement includes a locking mechanism for locking the backrest in a first position at which the depth of the base has a minimum length dimension, a second position at which the depth of the base has a maximum length dimension and at least certain positions between the first position and the second position.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended). An article of furniture as claimed in claim 2-~~or~~
~~claim 3~~ in which the backrest assembly includes a backrest member and at least one armrest extending at an angle from the backrest member.

Claim 5 (Original). An article of furniture as claimed in claim 4 in which the backrest member defines the front edge and the rear edge of the backrest assembly.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended). An article of furniture as claimed in claim 4 ~~or claim 5~~ in which the backrest assembly includes two armrests.

Claim 7 (Original). An article of furniture as claimed in claim 6 in which the armrests extend at right angles to the backrest member.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended). An article of furniture as claimed in claim 6 ~~or claim 7~~ in which the carrier arrangement includes a pair of rails, one rail being arranged beneath each armrest of the backrest assembly.

Claim 9 (Original). An article of furniture as claimed in claim 8 in which a runner is displaceably arranged on each rail, each runner being secured to an underside of its associated armrest.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended). An article of furniture as claimed in claim 9 in which the carrier mechanism includes a locking mechanism associated with each armrest, each locking mechanism for releasably locking each the runner of the armrest and its associated the rail on which that runner is arranged relative to each other.

Claim 11 (Original). An article of furniture as claimed in claim 10 in which the locking mechanism includes a concealed operating member.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended). An article of furniture as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claims 9-11 in which the rails are arranged in a concealed position on the base with the runners being carried on a lower side of each of the armrests so that, when the backrest assembly is at either of its limits of movement, the rails remain concealed beneath the armrests.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended). An article of furniture as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claims 4-12 in which the rear edge of the backrest member is substantially in register with the rear of the base when the backrest assembly is in its first position relative to the base.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended). An article of furniture as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claims 4-13 in which the rear edge of the backrest member overhangs the rear of the base when the backrest assembly is in its second position relative to the base.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended). An article of furniture as claimed in ~~any one of~~ the preceding claims 1 which is in the form of a sofa.

Claim 16 (Original). A locking mechanism which includes:
a tubular housing defining an aperture in a peripheral wall;
a locking member receivable in the aperture, the locking member being displaceable between a first position in which it protrudes through the aperture and a second position in which it is at least partially withdrawn into the aperture; and
a displacement member movably received in the housing, the displacement member being displaceable between a locking orientation and an unlocking orientation, when the displacement member is in its locking orientation the locking member is urged partially out of the aperture in the housing to protrude a predetermined extent through the

housing to effect locking and, when the displacement member is in its unlocking orientation, the locking member is free to be at least partially withdrawn into the housing to effect unlocking.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended). A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 16 which includes an urging ~~means~~-element for urging the displacement member to its locking orientation.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended). A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 17 in which the urging ~~means~~-element effects linear displacement of the displacement member relative to the housing.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended). A locking mechanism as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claims 16-18 which includes an operating member which acts on the displacement member for displacing the displacement member, relative to the housing, between its locking orientation and its unlocking orientation.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended). A locking mechanism as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claims 16-19 in which the displacement member is in the form of a rod received in a passage of the housing.

Claim 21 (Original). A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 20 in which the rod has a notch defining a ramped surface formed proximate an end of the rod received in the housing.

Claim 22 (Original). A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 21 in which the ramped surface bears against the locking member and retains the locking member in register with the aperture in the body member.

Claim 23 (Original). A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 20 in which the rod has an eccentrically arranged stepped region, of smaller diameter than a remainder of the rod, defined at or proximate an end of the rod received in the housing, the stepped region defining a first zone which is shallower than an opposed, second zone.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended). A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 17-~~or~~
~~claim 18~~ in which the urging means is in the form of a coil spring acting on the rod.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended). A locking mechanism as claimed in ~~any one of~~
claims 16-24 in which the locking member is in the form of a ball.

Claim 26 (Deleted).

Claim 27 (New) An article of furniture which includes:

a base having a front and a rear and a top surface;

a backrest assembly having a front edge and a rear edge and slideably arranged relative to the base in a plane parallel to the top surface of the base to adjust a depth of the base as measured between the front edge of the backrest assembly and the front of the base; and

a locking mechanism acting on the base and the backrest for locking the backrest in a first position at which the depth of the base has a minimum length dimension, a

second position at which the depth of the base has a maximum length dimension and at least certain positions between the first position and the second position.

Claim 28 (New) The article of furniture of claim 27 in which the locking mechanism comprises

a tubular housing defining an aperture in a peripheral wall;

a locking member receivable in the aperture, the locking member being displaceable between a first position in which it protrudes through the aperture and a second position in which it is at least partially withdrawn into the aperture; and

a displacement member movably received in the housing, the displacement member being displaceable between a locking orientation and an unlocking orientation so that, when the displacement member is in its locking orientation the locking member is urged partially out of the aperture in the housing to protrude a predetermined extent through the housing to effect locking and, when the displacement member is in its unlocking orientation, the locking member is free to be at least partially withdrawn into the housing to effect unlocking.